GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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THE "MORNING EXPRESS" LEAVING TEHERAN ON PERSIA'S FIRST FIVE MILES OF RAILWAY

For more than a quarter of a century this little narrow-gauge line running from the southern end of Teheran across the hot plains to the village of Shah Abdul Azim, seat of a golden-domed shrine, was Persia's only railway.

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Houston, a Texas Washington

WHEN EDUCATORS go to Texas in February to attend the convention of the Department of Superintendence, National Education Association, they will convene in Dallas, but many of them will take that opportunity to visit other cities of the State which are rich in frontier history.

One such place is Houston, named for one of the outstanding leaders and heroes of America whose fame has been obscured somewhat because he carried on his work far from the thickly populated eastern United States.

A Typical Early American

Sam Houston may be considered a sort of average struck between Daniel Boone, Andrew Jackson, and George Washington—which makes him typical of American leaders of the past century. Like Boone, he loved the frontier, was an excellent woodsman, and was recognized as a leader by the Indians as well as by his fellow Americans. Like Jackson, he was a rough and ready, but an admirable soldier. And, like Washington, he combined military skill with a natural ability to command attention in the council chamber. Like Washington, too, he played a prominent part in shaping the destiny of his country. His was the major rôle in freeing one-eleventh of the present territory of the United States proper from Mexico and annexing it to the Union as the State of Texas.

Honored by a Colony, Two States and a Republic

Few men have held so many positions of authority in different jurisdictions as Sam Houston. He was a member of Congress from Tennessee and a governor of that State, Commander-in-chief of the Army of Colonial Texas, President of the Republic of Texas, Senator from the State of Texas, and Governor of Texas.

The city which is the namesake of General Sam Houston is more happily and less arbitrarily designated than many communities that bear the names of famous men. It was almost on the site of the city that General Houston, commanding the revolutionary army of Texas, defeated Santa Ana, President and Commander-in-Chief of Mexico, in the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, and made possible the State of which Houston is now one of the leading cities.

From Battlefield to Metropolis

If the old general could see through the bronze eyes of the statue which has been set up near the scene of his victory, he would behold a vastly different region from that over which his soldiers fought with their muzzle-loading muskets. The long grass in which "the Mexican Napoleon" was found hiding the day after his defeat has been replaced by the close-clipped lawns of tens of thousands of dwellings of a modern American city. The few old trails have turned into a checkerboard of paved business streets, while railroads and electric lines and shell highways radiate into a region of farms, orchards and ranches. The place bristles with skyscrapers—more of them, Houstonians assert, than in any other city of like size.

A noteworthy transformation made once inland Houston a seaport. Buffalo Bayou, on whose banks Texas independence was won, is no more. Modern fairy wands—steam shovels and dredges and a few million dollars—have turned the sluggish old stream into the Houston Ship Canal, which has made the city a sort

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ONE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST CAPITOL BUILDINGS: PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

This is the administration center of one of Britain's important dominions, the Union of South Africa, which ranks with Canada and Australia as a self-governing dominion. While the executive departments are in Pretoria the legislature meets at Cape Town, which is 1,001 miles distant.

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Around the Clock in the British Empire

KING GEORGE V of England will drop a link of his long title if the recommendation of the London Imperial Conference of leading statesmen in Britain's dominions is accepted.

King George's title is: "George (Frederick Ernest Albert) V, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India."

It is suggested that "the United Kingdom" be dropped because of the new status of Ireland, outside Ulster. The Irish Free State has taken its place in the massive British Empire in a position like that of the Dominion of Canada, so "the United Kingdom" in the title is considered misleading.

A Domain of More Than 125 Units

What is the British Empire?

It has more than 125 separate governmental units. It is a quarter of the land surface of the world. It is a quarter of the population of the world—the estimate is 388,000,000. The British Empire is 58 millions of Christians, 94 millions of Mohammedans, 208 millions of Hindus and 28 millions of pagans and others.

Geographically the British Empire is many different things in so many different places: a coral atoll here, a dominion there, a cable station, a mandated district, ward of a savage people, or a coaling station—so that it cannot write its government in round, hard words such as are found in the Constitution of the United States.

While it is winter in one-half of the British Empire, it is summer in the other half, because the land area is almost equally distributed between the southern and northern hemispheres. This means that the crops of one-half the Empire can feed the other half while its fields lie dormant under the snow. Almost every kind of soil, every kind of climate, and every kind of mineral are found in the British Empire. England is the Empire's coal bin, Canada its wheat elevator, Australia its packing plant, the Malay States the Empire's rubber tree, South Africa its gold and diamond mines, and so on. The world's highest mountains and three of the greatest rivers, the Nile, the Ganges, and the Zambezi, are in the Empire.

The Source of Britain's Name

But for its name, its royal family, and its foundation stone, the British Empire has to look beyond its vast lands. "Britain" is a name probably born among the Basques of Spain or a related tribe. "England" and "English" are from the German "Angles," a conquering tribe that invaded the island. Although the royal family is now of the "House and Family of Windsor," it is descended from royalty of the German states, Hanover and Saxe-Coburg.

Queen Elizabeth's first patent to Sir Walter Raleigh permitted British subjects to accompany him to America, "with guarantee of a continuance of the enjoyment of all the rights which her subjects enjoyed at home." The Revolutionary War which America waged to defend that right proved to be a war of emancipation for all British colonies. The recent declaration of equality between

of American Manchester. Ocean steamers traverse the canal to a basin on the city's fringe and help to move the 3,000,000 bales of cotton that are marketed through Houston annually.

City's Name Often Mispronounced

The population of Houston is an unknown quantity. A 1924 estimate gave the city 160,062 inhabitants. The Census Bureau refuses to guess at the present number. It puts Houston in a sort of hall of fame with about a half dozen other cities which, it is officially explained, are growing so rapidly that an estimate would be valueless. Unless Houston requests a special enumeration as some other cities have done, it will have to do its own guessing until Uncle Sam's next official counting of noses in 1930.

Houstonians have one grudge against their fellow countrymen of the North and East. If your name is Saunders and persons you meet carelessly call you "Sanders" or "Zander," you will understand their indignation and annoyance at the constant mispronunciation of their city's name. The first syllable is not pronounced as if it were "house" or "whose" but like the verb "tó hew" or the masculine Christian name "Hugh."

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AN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE WITH SEA HAWK'S EGGS

This is merely one example of the many strange peoples and diverse geographic conditions which fall within the vast and varied scope of Britain's Empire (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Railroadless Countries of the World

THE STEAM ENGINE is about to invade the only "railroadless" country of Europe. Albania is planning the construction of a 24-mile road from Durrazzo, on the Adriatic coast, to Tirana.

Thus Albania parts company with Afghanistan, Asir, Bhutan, Nepal, Oman and Yemen, in Asia, and Liberia on the west coast of Africa.

Liberia Lacks Funds

Liberia is probably the only one of the seven countries that would have a railroad if it could. The other six are voluntary adherents to a policy of "splendid isolation," and efforts to establish twentieth century commercial facilities have met with disaster.

Largely due to the lack of funds, the little negro republic, which is about the size of Indiana, has hardly scratched the surface of its resources. For some 50 or 60 miles back of the coast, the land has been cleared and partly developed, but from that imaginary line inland there are dense forests and extremely primitive peoples. The President of Liberia visited the United States in 1921 to secure credit for his country, which has always been considered potentially one of the richest corners of Africa.

With the investment of American capital, notably the establishment of a great rubber plantation, and the development of the country by a progressive local administration, the thousands of negro porters who now carry huge loads of "freight" on their heads will, perhaps, soon give way to more modern transportation.

Afghanistan Largest of Isolates

Afghanistan is the largest of these railroadless countries—about fourteen times larger than Albania—yet no railroads or telegraph lines cross its border. The Amir has consistently objected to these facilities for fear of opening his domain to aliens, who are no more welcome now than they were a century ago. Only a few foreigners, mostly British, have been allowed to enter the country for short sojourns. Foreign engineers and doctors whose services are badly needed, if allowed to cross the border by the grace of the Amir, are closely watched. Ambassadors, ministers, and even missionaries are unwelcome.

Camels and pack horses are depended upon almost entirely for transportation in Afghanistan, but it is not uncommon to see elephants and even wheelbarrows on the trails. Some of the caravans number more than 120,000 animals, loaded with skins, dried fruits, assorted gums, and spices.

To insure complete isolation, the few roads into the country are well guarded. The chief route lies through Khyber Pass, the largest gateway from India. It is open two days a week except in hot weather, when it is available one day only. The Amir's agents scrutinize all who pass the gateway, and even Moslem caravan guides are displaced by Afghans who proceed inland. From sun-down to sun-up, the pass is closed to all traffic.

Nepal's Door Has No Welcome Mat

Nepal and Bhutan, lying among the peaks of the Himalayas, the former with Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world, along its border, have only slight

dominions and England herself is an outgrowth of the guarantee to the American colonies.

The Land of the Non-Setting Sun

Daniel Webster said of the Empire: "A power which has dotted over the surface of the whole globe with her possessions and military posts, whose morning drum-beat, following the sun, and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth with one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England."

Let us keep company with the hours and get twenty-four slices of the British Empire. We will start our instantaneous journey around the world when it is sunrise, 6 a. m. at Greenwich observatory, zero meridian, just outside London. It is also 6 a. m. in the Shetland Islands and at Accra, capital of Britain's Gold Coast colony, 3,000 miles south.

At the same moment it is 7 a. m. at Malta in the Mediterranean, Mani Village in the British Cameroon mandate, and at Walvis Bay, South West Africa, which is mandate to the Union of South Africa.

8 a. m. at Cyprus, at Kerma near the fourth cataract of the Nile in Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Lake Tanganyika, the city of Salisbury, Rhodesia; and Pietermaritzburg, Natal Province.

9 a. m. at Bagdad, British Iraq Mandate; Aden and British Somaliland at the mouth of the Red Sea, and Aldabra Islands in the Seychelles.

10 a. m. at Mauritius in the Indian Ocean and Gwadar in westernmost India.

11 a. m. at Lahore in Punjab, Calicut in southern India, Audmati in the Maldive Islands, and New Amsterdam Island, a British red speck in the southern Indian Ocean.

Noon at Calcutta.

Clock Strikes One at Singapore

1 p. m. at Singapore.

2 p. m. at Sandakan, British North Borneo; Condon, Northwest Australia; and Coolgardie, Australia's gold district.

3 p. m. exists on through the dry desert of Australia to Port Lincoln.

4 p. m. at New Ireland in the Bismarck Archipelago; Cloudy Mountain in Papua; on the Great Barrier Reef of Australia off Mackay; and at Canberra, new capital of Australia and eastern Tasmania.

5 p. m. at Nauru, one of the most valuable of Pacific Islands for its phosphate deposits; Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides, where Britain and France have joint rule; and Cape Providence, easternmost point of New Zealand.

6 p. m. the sun is setting on the British Empire at Vanua Levu of the Fiji Islands, Tonga Islands and Chatham Islands. Since these places are on the International Date Line they are the first places in the world to greet a new day.

Danger Island

7 p. m. at Danger Island, a tiny atoll.

8 p. m. Caroline Atoll upholds alone an Empire hour station.

9 p. m. at the mouth of the Mackenzie River, Alaska; White Horse, near the Alaskan Panhandle; and, 6,000 miles south on the same time line, Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific.

10 p. m. at Mt. Robson and Kamloops station on the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

11 p. m. at Regina, Saskatchewan, in Canada's wheat district.

12 p. m. midnight at the mouth of the Nelson River, Fort William on Lake Superior, and in British Honduras, Central America.

1 a. m. between Ottawa and Montreal, and at Kingston, Jamaica.

2 a. m. (On this time line British territory stretches from the Arctic Circle to the Antarctic Circle edge) at the eastern tip of Grand Land, 600 miles from the North Pole; at Labrador; Sydney, Nova Scotia; down the Atlantic to British Guiana and on down to the Falkland Islands.

3 a. m. at the South Orkneys near the Antarctic Circle.

4 a. m. at the Sandwich Group near-by the South Orkneys.

5 a. m. at Ascension Island in mid-Atlantic.

6 a. m. back at Greenwich, where it is still sunrise. We have sliced the world lengthwise twenty-four times and cut into British Empire red at every slice.

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Names Which Angles and Vikings Gave American Towns

MAYORS of twenty-one Camdens recently were invited by Camden, New Jersey, to attend the dedication of the new bridge over the Delaware River connecting Camden and Philadelphia.

Existence of twenty-one Camdens puts "Camden" well up in the list as one of the most popular town names in the United States.

Camden Vies with Franklin

Franklin leads the list as a favorite label for a town by being repeated 31 times in 31 states.

The name Franklin is a tribute to the great American of Revolutionary fame. Camden, too, is a tribute to a Revolutionary hero, but Camden honors an Englishman. Charles Pratt, a London lawyer, made such a name for himself before the bar that he was raised to Earl of Camden. This earl's subsequent opposition to the tea and stamp taxes made him many friends in America, so the colonists, in tribute to their champion, named for him towns in South Carolina, Georgia, Maine, New Jersey, North Carolina and New York, and also four counties. The other Camdens have been established by sons from the Revolutionary Camdens.

That, however, is not the whole story of Camden. Like so many other English names imported and scattered broadcast over the United States, Camden is a thumb-nail picture of a particular little spot in England. Charles Pratt took his earldom from a manor park in the county of Kent, which is south of London.

To our Anglo-Saxon ancestors forty generations back, "Camden" would convey a description just as vivid as the names "Thousand Islands" and "Great Salt Lake" do to us.

Origin of Name "Camden"

"Cam," our barbarian forefather would say, means crooked. "Den" is a wood vale where swine feed.

That gives us the materials for a picture of the birthplace of our twenty-one Camdens; a zigzagging ravine in the Kent hills—the slopes are forested with oaks whose acorns are welcome food for the swine. Swine were the only stock raised by our Anglo-Saxon forefathers.

With the aid of a few "tool" syllables like "cam" and "den" one can delve into the origins of the innumerable town names America has imported from England. The syllable "ing" is to English names what the "Mac" is to a Scotch name and "O" to an Irish name. It is the mark of a clan. Thus the Hastings were the noble class of the Goth tribes in England. By a little digging, therefore, one finds imbedded in the name for Hastings, Nebraska, the proud title of a valiant tribe that ruled and prospered in Kent, England.

Billings and Delaware

Billings, Montana, has an intimate link with the State of Delaware and Delaware Bay which is not apparent. The Billings were the aristocratic tribe of the Varini who lived in Lancashire. Now the name Varini became in time "Warrings," giving the title to Warrington, England. When a conquering Norman French lord came into control of Warring tribe after the invasion he became

hopes of extensive railroad transportation. To traverse or tunnel the Himalayas would be a herculean task.

While Bhutan displays some friendliness toward foreigners, Nepal is another country that is none too anxious for visitors. The roads piercing the border of Nepal are purposely kept in bad repair and built over unnecessarily difficult country. With the exception of the British Resident and a few other European officials, no one is allowed to visit the country without special permission from the Durbar. When permits are issued, visitors must travel by one particular route, and they are not allowed to go beyond the Valley of Katmandu, a tract of country about 300 square miles. In consequence of this seclusion, the internal administration has remained almost entirely unaffected by modern influence.

Three Oases of Arabia

The "no trespassing" sign also isolates Yemen, Asir and Oman from progressive commercial development. These states are little more than oases on the rim of the Arabian peninsula, with their back doors opening into the great desert. Yemen and Asir border the Red Sea, which, we are told, the Children of Israel crossed dry-shod, and have existed there with little change since that time. Oman, surrounding the southern end of the peninsula, while yet backward, is beginning to awaken. Until recent years much of her 82,000 square miles has not even been explored and her mineral resources untouched, but a lively trade with India is now being developed.

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THIS PIG WENT TO MARKET: KIATING, CHINA

Two men have carried it for many weary miles and, as the burden weighs 275 pounds, they are forced to stop and rest every hundred yards. They cannot put their load down, for it will scramble to its feet and run away, so they provide themselves with stout poles on which to rest it and themselves as well. Compare such transportation with our railroad system which collects meat animals for the great packing houses and then distributes the meat and by-products.

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When Is a Farm?

RECENT English laws may abolish the grandfather of farms. It is the feudal farm of Lord Manvers in Nottinghamshire. If it goes, a living picture of what the English countryside looked like in the Dark Ages will disappear.

The feudal farm, some American farms, and a 35,000-acre ranch for "manufacturing wheat" are examples of the varying kinds of farms.

1,200 Parcels on 900 Acres

The American Corn Belt farmer, who seldom deals in smaller units than "the back forty" acres, or "the west eighty," would laugh heartily at one of Lord Manvers' feudal farm plots. Although the Nottinghamshire manor has, in all, 900 acres, a satisfactory farm even by Corn Belt standards, it is divided into 1,200 parcels of land. Each plot, averaging three-fourths of an acre, is separated from its neighbors by a path or dyke of sod. The plots are grouped in three fields of 300 acres each.

The American farmer would be shocked by the utter wastefulness of the feudal system of agriculture. One of the three 300-acre fields lies fallow each year. To the feudal farmer's limited knowledge that was the only way of enabling land to recover its strength. The strips are too narrow to permit proper cultivation by cross harrowing. Moreover, the tenants' strips are all mixed up with Lord Manvers' strips, so that a cultivator must spend a good portion of the day walking from one job to another. Of course, he must help work Manvers' plots, too. No Manvers tenant lives on his rented land, since the plots are reallotted each year. The tenant cottages are tucked up close to the dignified and protecting walls of the manor castle.

"Farm" Has Many Meanings

Dictionary compilers are taxed to define "farm" as it is understood in the United States. A farm in New Hampshire is different from a farm in the Corn Belt States, and neither of these types has a speaking acquaintance with a California "farm." One of the chief farm implements in New Hampshire is a crowbar. But your New Hampshire or Vermont farmer at least has the satisfaction of a permanent monument in stone fences to his work of sifting soil from rocks.

In California a farm is a freak establishment. If you own land which raises oranges or lemons, it is a grove. If you raise cattle, hogs, beans, beets or the like, it is a ranch. But, if you grow alligators, you operate an alligator farm. Southern California boasts of ostrich farms, goldfish farms, frog farms, rabbit farms, pigeon farms and two butterfly farms. But Exhibit A in "farms" is the lion farm at El Monte. About 75 lions thrive there on a 5-acre tract which is planted with North African shrubs. The lion farmer sells his stock on the hoof to the movies, zoos and circuses. He, at least, is a farmer who does not care what the weather will be to-morrow.

Like Rows of Ribbons

A novel type of farm in North America is in the province of Quebec, Canada. Agriculture east of the city of Quebec, on the northern banks of the St. Lawrence River, is confined to a narrow strip between the Laurentian Mountains and

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Lord de la Warr. A later holder of that title who was made governor of Virginia explored a great bay and the shores of the bay which now bear the name of the lord's house, Delaware.

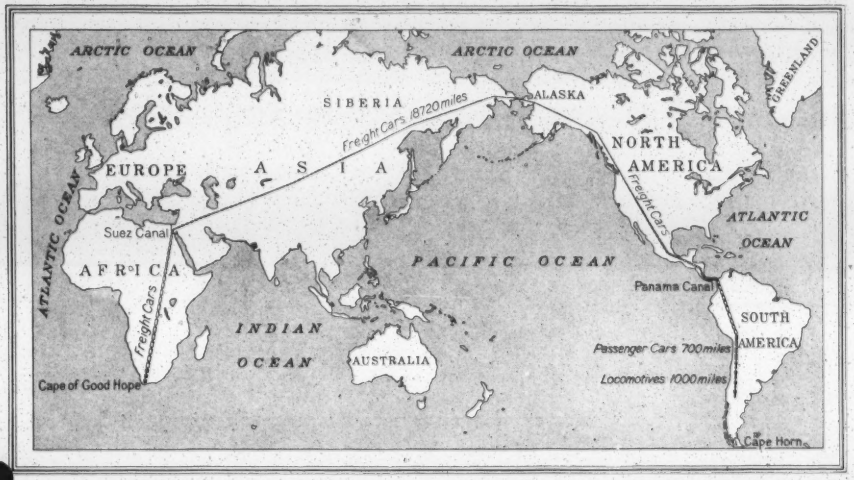
Other convenient syllables for excavating name origins are: "or" or "ore," denoting a settlement on the shore of the ocean or a river; "leigh," "ley," or "lea," meaning an untilled swamp land; "ey" or "ea," showing the existence of an island; "bury," marking a fortified place; "borough," a hill that was a meeting place; and "ham," meaning the home of an early Anglo-Saxon around which a village grew up; "by" is the Scandinavian equivalent of "ham" and therefore marks the home of a Viking or Danish invader who settled in England.

Some Names Misapplied

There are innumerable humorous examples in which these thumb-nail geographical sketches telling about an English town have been carried over to the United States with no thought of whether they apply or not. Windsor, England, is on the shore of the Thames where the Anglo-Saxons put it, but many of the eighteen Windsors in the United States boast no more than a creek. The "ea" marks Chelsea, England, as once an island in the Thames mouth, which it is not now. Neither are its eleven brother-by-name Chelseas, in the United States, islands.

Pupils in school to-day think they have a hard time spelling many of our town and State names. They really have much to be thankful for. The original names were often jawbreakers. There are four Worcesters in the United States whose silent "r" is often a stumbling block to the best spellers. How much more of a stumbling block is the name of the Worcesters' progenitor, "Hwic-waraceaster," meaning the "castle of the inhabitants of the country of the Huiccii." Boston was once known as "the town of St. Botolph," and a shock-headed Dane of North England, returned to earth after a thousand years' sleep, would call the largest city in America, New Eurewic."

Bulletin No. 4, January 17, 1927.



Drawn by A. H. Bumstead

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A GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THE VASTNESS OF THE ROLLING STOCK EQUIPMENT OF AMERICA'S RAILROADS

If all the freight-service cars, all of the passenger-service cars, and all of the locomotives in the United States were coupled together, they would make a train reaching from the Cape of Good Hope, via the Isthmus of Suez, Bering Strait, and the Panama Canal, nearly to Cape Horn (see Bulletin No. 2 and also, "America's Amazing Railway Traffic," in The National Geographic Magazine for April, 1923).

the river. The typical farm of a French habitant on this Beaupre coast is one *arpent*, or 200 feet, wide and from 2 to 3 miles long.

This curious, unwieldy shoestring farm is a direct survival of French colonization previous to the capture of Quebec by Wolfe in 1759. In early colonial times the St. Lawrence River was the only "road," so the residents, like the Dutch patroons on the Hudson and the Virginia planters on the James, insisted on having land fronting on a river.

While no pioneer was a greater roamer and adventurer in strange places than the French fur trader, the French habitant clung to his land as tenaciously as his kinsmen do in France. Many of the Beaupre farms, with their fences running together at the mountains like railroad tracks, have been held in the same families for more than 200 years.

In France itself the financial troubles of the whole nation are often attributed to the small size of the farms. Two-thirds of the 5,700,000 farmers of France own less than 25 acres. Only 30,280 farmers own more than 250 acres, and fewer than 5,000 individuals have more than 750 acres. The French custom of dividing the land among the children is said to result in minute division of land.

Staircase Farms of Incas

Yet neither the feudal land parcels nor the French farms are as small as the staircase farms of the Incas. The Inca Indian, most remarkable of all agriculturists the world has ever seen, terraced mountain sides steeper than the average slope of a roof. He grew potatoes, corn, peanuts, lima beans, pineapples, sweet potatoes and cotton on artificial rock shelves sometimes as narrow as 3 or 4 feet. He was a modern farmer at the time our European forefathers still shivered in skins and lived by the spear. The National Geographic Society Expedition to Machu Picchu, capital of the Incas, found many banks with fifty or more terraces 10 feet high. This is equal to 500 feet, so any one who has climbed the 898 steps of the Washington Monument can appreciate the task of the Inca farmer merely in going to work.

Maryland Was Our Largest "Farm"

Probably the largest single "farm," if it may be called such, which has been held in the United States, is Maryland. Lord Baltimore was the sole proprietor of the grant, and to this day all deeds in the State go back to his title. The English settlers coming to the southern colonies had a passion for land. They liked to be lords of all they surveyed, and placed their manor houses accordingly. One of the most famous landowners was William Fitzhugh, who acquired more than 50,000 acres. George Washington's Mount Vernon farm of 8,000 acres was small beside this.

Thirty-five thousand acres is the size of a remarkable wheat ranch in Montana, where a college-trained farmer has introduced modern factory methods for producing grain. Machines do most of the work, and the cost accountant is one of the most valuable employees. On the same day that a tenant is plowing up a two-thirds acre plot on Lord Manvers' feudal farm, fifteen tractors pulling gang plows break a 150-foot furrow 6 miles long. They plow a square mile a day.

Bulletin No. 5, January 17, 1927.